

**Draft Minutes – Regular Meeting
DISABILITY ACCESS COMMISSION
August 20, 2014 7 p.m.
Main Branch Public Library
Veterans' Room
834 Lake Street**

Roll Call and Call to Order

Present: Laona Fleischer, Larry Frazee, Helen Kossler, Carol Southern
Absent: Erica Henry, Leo Irakliotis, Martin Moran
Staff Liaison: Steve Witt
Guests: Craig Failor, Village Planner
Quorum: The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Welcome Non-commissioners and New Commissioners

Helen Kossler was introduced as the newest member of the commission, filling the position vacated by Scott Jensen.

Agenda

It was moved and seconded to amend the agenda for the meeting to moving the discussion of the Lake Street Streetscape Enhancement Plan to after review of minutes from the previous meeting. A voice vote was taken and the agenda was approved as written.

Minutes

Draft minutes from the June 18, 2014 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved as written. It was noted that there are no minutes to the meeting scheduled in July as there was no quorum for that meeting.

New business

- a. Craig Failor made a presentation to the commission regarding the proposed Lake Street Streetscape Enhancement Plan. Craig indicated that a part of his duties is to look at long range plans for the business districts, such as streetscape planning. The project presented would reconfigure Lake Street from Harlem to Euclid. Craig indicated that the Village Board has already seen this plan and Trustee Salzman suggested bringing the plan to the Disability Access Commission for their input.

Options for material selections were discussed but the main purpose of the discussion was to seek input from the commission on how to make the pedestrian way and crosswalks as accessible as possible. Items that were discussed included:

1. Would the blue stone surfaces have a texture that would reduce slipping? Response was that the surface would be similar in nature to concrete.

2. Would brick be an acceptable material for use in the crosswalks considering the use by wheelchairs or elderly on potentially uneven surfaces. Response was that granite would be a better material for the crosswalks as brick pavers are subject to shifting under winter freeze/thaw action.
3. Would crosswalks be fitted with flashing lights, particularly at mid-block crossings? Response was that they could be designed similar to those on Roosevelt Road.
4. Some persons with disabilities need more time to cross the streets than those who are able-bodied. Response was that the Village is looking into re-installing crosswalk buttons.
5. The intersection at 1048 Lake was considered dangerous and a recommendation was made to take a look at all crosswalks in the Village at a future date with respect to the use by disabled persons.
6. How will the proposed project be scheduled to provide access to businesses for persons with disabilities. Response was that this has not been defined yet in the process.
7. Would the Village consider providing a trolley to shuttle persons from one area to another? This item is beyond the scope of the project.
8. Would snow removal on the sidewalks be handled through heated sidewalks? Response was that based on the higher than expected utility bills for heating the sidewalks on Marion Street, this will not be a feature included within the Lake Street project.
9. Would the sidewalks be reduced in width anywhere within the project? Concern was raised about the use of public sidewalks for restaurant seating which can impact the use of the sidewalk by persons with disabilities. Response was that the Village is currently looking at the licensing process for sidewalk seating areas at restaurants.
10. Considering the freeze thaw affects in the winter months, the step-off points at crosswalks are often underwater or frozen which is problematic for persons with disabilities. The propose street reconfiguration should look to make the step-off points high points on the curb line to allow water to drain away from them in lieu of being collection points with sewer inlets nearby.
11. Accessible sidewalks need to be a minimum of 5 feet wide. In order to improve the walking surface, the required sidewalk width should not be subject to placement of tree grates or changes in materials such as from concrete to brick. Masonry pavers should not be used within the required width as freeze thaw action can make the walking surface uneven.
12. Accessible parking stalls should be clearly identified and the total count of accessible stalls should not be reduced as part of the project.
13. Bus shelters and seating should be provided at all bus stops to accommodate the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Larry Frazee questioned whether DAC should perform an informal survey of other areas within the Village to see what could have been done better; heated walks, higher corners at crosswalks, better designed crosswalks.

The meeting agenda reverted back to Non-agenda items and public comments.

Non Agenda Public Comments

Larry Frazee indicated that he would be resigning from the commission around November as he will be moving his residence into Chicago due to restrictions at his place of employment.

Ongoing Business

- a. No report from the subcommittee on disability awareness program for District 97 schools was available due to the absence of members Henry and Martin.

- b. Carol Southern has taken over the commission's liaison position to the Fair Housing Task Force. She indicated that there was not a lot of action taken at the last meeting of the Task Force. People are being interviewed to determine if discrimination took place. She indicated that the focus of the Task Force seemed to be on racial discrimination rather than including investigation of discrimination against persons with disabilities which was reported to have occurred.
- c. Discussion ensued regarding reprinting of the resource booklet. It was decided to print enough booklets to get the commission through next May and then concentrate on updating the content of the booklet before next June 1. A motion was made and unanimously approved to use the remainder of the commission's 2014 budget minus \$100.00 to print more booklets. A motion was made and approved to form a subcommittee to handle the reprinting of the resource booklets. Laona Fleischer and Helen Kossler were appointed to the subcommittee. Steve Witt will find out how much money is left in the budget and the cost of the previous printing so that new booklets can be ordered by the subcommittee.
- d. Discussion of disability sensitivity training with the Village was deferred to the next meeting.
- e. Discussion on the Farmer's Market centered on the need to have handouts for the public. Reprinting of the resource booklets was discussed as noted above.
- f. Discussion on a potential ordinance amendment to allow for a student representative to be added to the commission membership was deferred to the next meeting to allow for all members to weigh in on the matter.

New business - continued

- b. Discussion on topics for next year's work plan was deferred to the next meeting.
- c. Discussion on parking awareness was deferred to the next meeting.
- d. Discussion on guest presenters was deferred to the next meeting.

Future Topic Considerations

None suggested.

Next Meeting Location and Date

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the Main Public Library.

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.